THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

A proposal for outlining the role of the Post Offices in banking operations is being drawn up.

Smart city project

1906. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smart city project, conceptualized in Ernakulam district of Kerala is under the Information Technology Policy of State;

(b) if so, whether Dubai Internet City (DIC), the company behind above project is an IT company or an IT park;

(c) whether DIC is owned by UAE Government;

(d) if so, whether DIC is eligible to get concession under the State Information Technology Policy; and

(e) the details in Memorandum of Understanding signed with DIC for the smart city project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Government of Kerala have informed that their Information Technology Policy provides for encouragement of private initiatives for infrastructure building.

(b) and (c) Government of Kerala have also informed that Dubai Internet City is one of the brands under TECOM (Dubai Technology Electronic Commerce and media Free Zone Authority) and is an IT park. Being a division of TECOM, DIC is fully owned by the Dubai Government.

(d) Government of Kerala has taken a conscious decision to extend the subsidies in line with the policy, even though DIC is a developer and not an IT company.

(e) Memorandum of Understanding has not been signed.